

## 9. New England Power Company

[Docket No. ER96-662-000]

Take notice that on December 22, 1995, New England Power Company (NEP), tendered for filing a Supplement to its Service Agreement with Fitchburg Gas & Electric Light Company under NEP's FERC Electric Tariff, Original Volume No. 3.

*Comment date:* January 25, 1996, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

## 10. The Narragansett Electric Company

[Docket No. ER96-664-000]

Take notice that on December 22, 1995, The Narragansett Electric Company tendered for filing rate changes to its FERC Electric Tariff, Original Volume No. 1 for borderline sales.

*Comment date:* January 25, 1996, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

## Standard Paragraph

E. Any person desiring to be heard or to protest said filing should file a motion to intervene or protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 18 CFR 385.214). All such motions or protests should be filed on or before the comment date. Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party must file a motion to intervene. Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-534 Filed 1-18-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

[Docket No. CP96-57-000]

# **Northern Natural Gas Company; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed 1996 Zone EF Expansion Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues**

January 11, 1996.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) will prepare an environmental assessment (EA) that will discuss the environmental impacts of the construction and operation of the facilities proposed in the 1996 Zone EF

Expansion Project.<sup>1</sup> This EA will be used by the Commission in its decision-making process to determine whether an environmental impact statement is necessary and whether to approve the project.

## Summary of the Proposed Project

Northern Natural Gas Company (Northern) wants to expand the capacity of its facilities in Minnesota and Wisconsin to transport an additional 46,400 million British thermal units per day of natural gas to six local distribution companies. Northern seeks authority to:

- Abandon the 10,600-horsepower (hp) Owatonna Compressor Station in Steele County, Minnesota and construct and operate a new 10,600-hp Faribault Compressor Station in Rice County, Minnesota;
- Extend its 30-inch-diameter "C-line" loop by about 2.24 miles in Washington County, Minnesota;
- Increase the capacity of its Elk River system by extending the existing 20-inch-diameter Elk River branchline loop in two areas for a total of about 3.30 miles in Anoka County, Minnesota;
- Construct about 14.52 miles of 6-inch-diameter tie-over connecting the Paynesville and the Watkins branchlines in Stearns County, Minnesota;
- Install: (a) about 3.07 miles of 4-inch-diameter St. Michael branchline loop in Wright County, Minnesota; (b) about 5.01 miles of 8-inch-diameter Princeton branchline loop in Mile Lacs and Sherburne Counties, Minnesota; and (c) about 1.96 miles of 4-inch-diameter Monticello branchline loop in Wright County, Minnesota;
- Modify three meter stations in Anoka County, Minnesota and two meter stations in Wright County, Minnesota; and
- Modify a meter station in St. Croix County, Wisconsin and one meter station in Buffalo County, Wisconsin.

The general location of the project facilities are shown in appendix 1.<sup>2</sup>

## Land Requirements for Construction

Construction of the proposed facilities would require about 306 acres of land. Following construction, about 4 acres would be maintained as new above

<sup>1</sup> Northern Natural Gas Company's application was filed with the Commission under Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act and Part 157 of the Commission's regulations.

<sup>2</sup> The appendices referenced in this notice are not being printed in the Federal Register. Copies are available from the Commission's Public Reference and Files Maintenance Branch, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, or call (202) 208-1371. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail.

ground facility sites. The remaining 290 acres of land would be restored and allowed to revert to its former use.

## The EA Process

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires the Commission to take into account the environmental impacts that could result from an action whenever it considers the issuance of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. NEPA also requires us to discover and address concerns the public may have about proposals. We call this "scoping". The main goal of the scoping process is to focus the analysis in the EA on the important environmental issues. By this Notice of Intent, the Commission requests public comments on the scope of the issues it will address in the EA. All comments received are considered during the preparation of the EA. State and local government representatives are encouraged to notify their constituents of this proposed action and encourage them to comment on their areas of concern.

The EA will discuss impacts that could occur as a result of the construction and operation of the proposed project under these general headings:

- Geology and soils
- Water resources, fisheries, and wetlands
- Vegetation and wildlife
- Endangered and threatened species
- Public safety
- Land use
- Cultural resources
- Air quality and noise
- Hazardous waste

We will also evaluate possible alternatives to the proposed project or portions of the project, and make recommendations on how to lessen or avoid impacts on the various resource areas.

Our independent analysis of the issues will be in the EA. Depending on the comments received during the scoping process, the EA may be published and mailed to Federal, state, and local agencies, public interest groups, interested individuals, affected landowners, newspapers, libraries, and the Commission's official service list for this proceeding. A comment period will be allotted for review if the EA is published. We will consider all comments on the EA before we recommend that the Commission approve or not approve the project.

## Currently Identified Environmental Issues

We have already identified several issues that we think deserve attention

based on a preliminary review of the proposed facilities and the environmental information provided by Northern. Keep in mind that this is a preliminary list. The list of issues may be added to, subtracted from, or changed based on your comments and our analysis. Issues are:

- The Rum River, a state designated wild and scenic river, would be crossed.
- The Sauk River and Mill Creek, protected waters of the State of Minnesota, would also be crossed.
- About 30.8 acres of wetlands and 25.7 acres of forest would be disturbed by construction.
- A 100-foot-wide construction right-of-way is proposed for the "C-line" Extension and Elk River Loop 2.

#### Public Participation

You can make a difference by sending a letter addressing your specific comments or concerns about the project. You should focus on the potential environmental effects of the proposal, alternatives to the proposal (including alternative routes), and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impact. The more specific your comments, the more useful they will be. Please follow the instructions below to ensure that your comments are received and properly recorded:

- Address your letter to: Lois Cashell, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First St., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426;
- Reference Docket No. CP96-57-000;
- Send a copy of your letter to: Mr. Bob Kopka, EA Project Manager, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 North Capitol St., N.E., PR-11.1, Washington, D.C. 20426; and
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, D.C. on or before February 12, 1996.

If you wish to receive a copy of the EA, you should request one from Mr. Kopka at the above address.

#### Becoming an Intervenor

In addition to involvement in the EA scoping process, you may want to become an official party to the proceeding or become an "intervenor". Among other things, intervenors have the right to receive copies of case-related Commission documents and filings by other intervenors. Likewise, each intervenor must provide copies of its filings to all other parties. If you want to become an intervenor you must file a motion to intervene according to Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.214) (see appendix 2).

The date for filing of timely motions to intervene in this proceeding has passed. Therefore, parties now seeking to file late interventions must show good cause, as required by Section 385.214(b)(3), why this time limitation should be waived. Environmental issues have been viewed as good cause for late intervention. You do not need intervenor status to have your scoping comments considered.

Additional information about the proposed project or more detailed project maps are available from Mr. Bob Kopka, EA Project Manager, at (202) 208-0282.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-517 Filed 1-18-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

#### [Project No. 460—Washington]

#### **Tacoma Public Utilities; Notice of Intent to Hold Public Meetings in Hoodspport and Olympia, Washington, to Discuss the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Relicensing of the Cushman Hydroelectric Project**

January 11, 1996.

On December 15, 1995, the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Cushman Hydroelectric Project was distributed to all parties on the Commission's mailing list and a notice of availability was published in the Federal Register. The DEIS evaluates the environmental consequences of the proposed relicensing of the project. The project is located in Mason County, Washington near the town of Hoodspport.

Three public meetings have been scheduled to be held in Hoodspport and Olympia, Washington, for the purpose of allowing Commission Staff to present the major DEIS findings and recommendations. Interested parties will have an opportunity to give oral comment on the DEIS for the Commission's public record. Comments will be recorded by a court reporter. Individuals will be given up to five minutes each to present their views on the DEIS.

#### Meeting Dates, Times & Locations

*Wednesday, January 31, from 7:00 pm-11:00 pm*

Location: Hoodspport Firehall, Hoodspport, Washington 2 blocks west of Hwy 101 on Finch Creek Road; attached to and directly behind Hoodspport Fire Station.

*Thursday, February 1, from 9:30 am-12:30 pm*

Location: Ramada Inn Governor's House, 621 S. Capitol Way Olympia, Washington; take Route 5 to exit #105; follow signs to State Capitol; through East Campus Tunnel; turn right on Capitol Way; go six blocks to hotel.

*Thursday, February 1, from 7:00 pm-11:00 pm*

Location: Ramada Inn Governor's House, 632 S. Capitol Way, Olympia, Washington.

Comments may also be submitted in writing, addressed to Lois D. Cashell, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426. Reference should be clearly made to the Cushman Project, No. 460. All comments must be received by February 13, 1996.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-520 Filed 1-18-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

#### [Project Nos. 1984-054, et al.]

#### **Hydroelectric Applications: Wisconsin River Power Authority, et al.; Notice of Applications**

Take notice that the following hydroelectric applications have been filed with the Commission and are available for public inspection:

1a. *Type of Application:* Removal of Land from Project Boundary.

b. *Project No.:* 1984-054.

c. *Dates Filed:* September 12, 1995 and November 1, 1995.

d. *Applicant:* Wisconsin River Power Authority (WRPA).

e. *Name of Project:* Castle Rock-Pentenwell Project.

f. *Location:* The parcel is on the north side of highway 21, about 1/4 mile east of the Wisconsin River in Adams County, Wisconsin.

g. *Filed Pursuant to:* Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. § 791(a)-825(r).

h. *Applicant Contact:* Richard L. Hilliker, P.O. Box 8050, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495-8050, (715) 422-3722.

i. *FERC Contact:* John K. Hannula (202) 219-0116.

j. *Comment Date:* February 8, 1996.

k. *Description of Application:* WRPA proposes to sell 5 acres of project land to Mr. Walter Buchanan and remove the land from the project boundary.

l. This notice also consists of the following standard paragraphs: B, C1, and D2.

2a. *Type of Application:* Petition for Declaratory Order.